

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-54. (canceled)

55. (previously presented) A method for treating patients suffering from vascular disease by a combination of infra-, audible- and ultrasound waves, wherein said method comprises the steps of

providing an apparatus comprising:

a treating head emitting sound waves with frequencies lying within an operation range extending from a lower limit of 1 Hz to an upper limit of 100 kHz,
an electronics connected to said treating head for energizing said treating head to emit said sound waves, wherein

the sound waves emitted by said treating head constitute a treatment unit of a predetermined total length in time;

the frequencies of the sound waves within said treatment unit sweep over the operation range from said lower limit to said upper limit in given steps,

said steps changing in length over time during said treatment unit; and

each sound wave of a certain frequency is emitted for a given period of time, said periods of time adding up to the total length in time of the treatment unit;

arranging a coupling medium on a patient's body portion to be treated;

bringing said treating head into contact with said coupling medium;

energizing said treating head to emit said sound waves through the coupling medium and into the body portion to be treated.

56. (previously presented) The treating method according to Claim 55, wherein said treatment unit is chosen in such a way that the treating head emits sound waves of certain frequencies, the frequency continuously increasing from 1 Hz to 200 Hz at a rate of 1 Hz per seconds within the period of 1 s to 200 s thereof, then from 200 Hz to 1,000 Hz at a rate of 100 Hz per seconds within the period of 200 s to 208 s thereof, and finally from 1,000 Hz to 100,000 Hz at a rate of 1,000 Hz per seconds within the period of 208 s to 307 s thereof.

57. (previously presented) The treating method according to Claim 56, wherein said treatment unit is performed more than once.

58. (previously presented) The treating method according to Claim 55, wherein:

there is further provided a heating device connected to said electronics, said heating device being attached to a resilient thermal blanket being capable of receiving the body portion to be treated;

arranging said body portion within said thermal blanket; and
generating a controlled amount of heat within said thermal blanket by said heating device and performing thereby a simultaneous hot chamber treatment of said body portion.

59. (previously presented) The treating method according to Claim 58, further performing said hot chamber treatment of said body portion at a preset temperature falling between 25°C and 50°C, preferably between 30°C and 45°C.

60. (cancelled)

61. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ treating method according to claim ~~47~~ 55, wherein ~~the energy density of each~~

sound wave of a certain frequency is emitted by the treating head
with an energy density of ~~is~~ at most 0.06 W/cm^2 .

62. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ treating method
according to claim ~~47~~ 56, wherein ~~the energy density of~~ each
sound wave of a certain frequency is emitted by the treating head
with an energy density of ~~is~~ at most 0.06 W/cm^2 .

63. (previously presented) The treating method
according to claim 59, wherein the preset temperature is between
 30°C and 45°C .